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GRATZ COLLEGE PHILADELPHIA

for 6.

STATISTICAL DATA

---OF THE----

JEWISH RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS OF PHILADELPHIA

---FOR---

1906-1907

COLLECTED BY

Julius H. Greenstone, Ph.D.

INSTRUCTOR IN PEDAGOGICS, GRATZ COLLEGE

PHILADELPHIA 1907





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STATISTICAL DATA OF THE

JEWISH RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS OF PHILADELPHIA

FOR 1906-1907.

One of the important objects of Gratz College is the fitting of its students for the position of teachers in Jewish religious schools. It is accordingly within the purview of the College to encourage the collection of information relating to the Jewish religious schools in this country, and it seemed that the most appropriate method of stimulating such an inquiry was to collect, as far as possible, the statistics relating to such schools in Philadelphia.

There have been included within the inquiries all schools where Jewish children are taught Hebrew, Jewish history and Jewish religious institutions. No attempt was made to obtain data from teachers who have no established schools, and impart instruction to their pupils at their homes. The data obtained from private schools are rather meagre and inadequate, many not having replied to the inquiries sent, whilst others could not be reached at all, so that the information presented in the accompanying tables lacks completeness and accuracy. As a first attempt, however, such deficiencies must be expected, and it is hoped that even in its present state, the information will be of value and interest, and will lead to similar inquiries in other cities.

DIVISION OF SCHOOLS.

For the sake of convenience the thirty-nine schools which replied to the queries propounded are divided into the following seven groups:

- I. Congregational Schools (5).
- 2. Hebrew Sunday School Society Schools (8).
- 3. Hebrew Education Society Schools (4).
- 4. Orphan Asylums (2). 5. Talmud Torahs (4).
- 6. Other Schools managed by Societies (4).
- 7. Private Schools (Hadarim) (12).

Numbers 1, 4 and 6 stand by themselves, while number 2 is in a measure a complement to Nos. 3, 5 and 7, that is to say, the children attending schools under 1, 4 and 6 probably receive no other religious instruction, while many of the children attending the Hebrew Sunday School Society

schools probably also attend schools of groups 3, 5 and 7. This is an important point to consider in considering these tables, as will be shown under

the headings of "Pupils" and "Subjects of Instruction."

The five congregational schools are maintained by congregations whose members are more or less of the older Jewish settlers. The numerous congregations in the southern portion of the city as well as those which are constantly being established in the northeastern section, whose members are more recent immigrants, do not deem it necessary to combine the religious instruction of their children with the synagogue. The children of the members of these congregations constitute the main contingent of all the other schools.

The Hebrew Sunday School Society has its eight schools in various portions of the city. It is one of the oldest Jewish organizations in the city, and still is alive to the changed conditions and the requirements of the time. Within the last few years, the number of its schools was doubled as the increased population demanded.

The Hebrew Education Society conducts four schools where Hebrew forms the main subject of instruction. The sessions are held four times a week. Within the past year a new school was established by the Society at

the Zion Institute, thus increasing the usefulness of its work.

There are three Talmud Torahs and one Yeshibah. In these, also, Hebrew is the main subject of instruction. The Talmud Torahs are more elementary in character, while in the Yeshibah, Bible and Talmud are taught to grown boys. The Northeastern Talmud Torah has just moved to a new home of its own and expects to extend its work greatly during the coming season.

During the past few years a laudable movement was inaugurated by some Jews living in the northwestern section of the city to establish a Jewish religious school in that neighborhood. The remarkable success of this school gave an impetus to Jews living in other parts of the city, removed from any synagogue, to do likewise. A number of schools of that kind was established during this year and others are now in the process of organization. These schools are independent of any synagogue, although they may, in the course of time, be the means of the organization of new synagogues.

The number of Hadarim or private schools is very large and it is to be regretted a larger proportion of these could not be reached. They hold sessions daily and Hebrew is the main subject of instruction. The Heder is, however, falling into desuetude and the itinerant or visiting teacher is constantly taking its place. This is due to the fact that parents who do not care about the study of Hebrew, still wish their children to be able to recite the blessing over the Torah, or perhaps read a few verses therefrom when they reach the age of Bar Mitzvah. When the boy reaches the age of twelve the mother or the father begins to look around for a teacher. The boy could then learn very little in a Heder and private, individual instruction becomes necessary. Thus a teacher is engaged to visit the boy at his home and teach him just as much as is necessary to know for "Bar Mitzvah"; i. e. the recital of the Berachah, Maftir and perhaps, also, the Haftarah, and an address in Yiddish or English. Even those teachers who have established schools spend their evening hours in giving lessons to prospective Bar Mitzvah boys, while

a large number of young men support themselves from the income derived from such instruction. It should be added that quite a number of parents engage private tutors for their children with the sole purpose of having them taught Hebrew, the Bible and also the Talmud.

The schools conducted by the Orphan Asylum form a class by themselves,

since they are only for the inmates of these homes.

PUPILS.

Regarding the data in Table I, we must first take into consideration the fact that there are quite a number of duplicate students. Many of the children that attend the Hebrew Sunday School Society schools, especially the boys, are probably included in the number of pupils in the Talmud Torahs, the Hebrew Education Society schools, and the private schools, where they obtain their Hebrew instruction. Some children attend one school of the Hebrew Sunday School Society on Sunday morning and another in the afternoon. We shall therefore have to make quite a considerable deduction from the total number of children as given in this table.

While in the congregational schools the proportion of girls and boys is about even, five-eights of the total enrollment in the schools of the Hebrew Sunday School Society are girls, while in the Hebrew Education Society schools, the number of girls is more than double the number of boys. On the other hand, in the Talmud Torahs and in the private schools, girls form but a very small proportion. In "Other Schools" the proportion of girls and

boys is about even.

The proportion of the average attendance to the number of pupils enrolled is fair in all the schools. In those of the Hebrew Sunday School Society where the average attendance is apparently less than one-half of the pupils enrolled, the average attendance during the regular sessions, from September to June, nearly reaches the standard of the other schools.

The average age of pupils entering the various schools is six, and of graduation or confirmation is fifteen. In the Talmud Torahs and private schools the pupils usually leave the schools at the age of 13, i. e. after a boy has passed the age of Bar Mitzvah his Hebrew education comes to a close, since there is no formal graduation in these schools. Some of the congregational schools as well as the schools of the Hebrew Sunday School Society maintain post-graduate or post-confirmation classes, and also Alumni organizations.

TEACHERS.

The inadequate means at the disposal of Jewish Religious Schools necessitates, in most cases, the employment of volunteer teachers. This is a system which grew up because of lack of funds, and while useful results have been obtained, it has disadvantages too apparent to require enumeration. It has also had the effect of discouraging able men and women from taking up the work of teaching in religious schools as a profession. It is gratifying to notice that the congregations are beginning to realize their duty to education, and considerable sums are set aside annually to be expended in the general management of the school. Of the 47 teachers employed in the five congregational schools of this city, 38 receive remuneration for their work.

In the Hebrew Education Society schools, in the Talmud Torahs and in the private schools, where instruction is given daily, all the teachers receive salaries. In the Hebrew Sunday School Society schools, few teachers are paid, which is also true in the case of the schools styled in the Table as "Other Schools."

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION AND MEETINGS.

The Hebrew Sunday School Society schools, which meet only once a week, on Sundays, include in their curriculum only Bible History and Religion. In the Talmud Torahs, the private schools and the schools of the Hebrew Education Society, Hebrew is the main subject of instruction and Bible History and Religion are only incidentally taught. These have sessions three or four times a week. In some of the congregational schools, additional sessions, besides the Sunday session, are held, mainly for the purpose of teaching Hebrew. The study of Hebrew is being introduced little by little, also in the schools managed by private organizations, and it may be hoped that after these are better equipped, special sessions will be devoted to the study of Hebrew. The study of Hebrew is made compulsory in most schools where Hebrew is taught.

The language employed in most of the schools is English, although in some of the Talmud Torahs and private schools, Yiddish is still the language in which instruction is imparted.

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

Generally the number of children in the lower grades is larger than in the upper grades. Exact data about the number of children in each class were not given by most schools. It will be noticed that in the Talmud Torahs especially, the average number of children in each class is very large, contrary to the Talmudic precept that there should be no more than twenty-five children under the care of one teacher. This may be due either to the scarcity of teachers or to the lack of room.

The separation of classes in separate rooms should be considered essential, and still in many schools various classes meet in one room. This is unfortunate both because the discipline cannot be maintained and disturbances must occur.

Almost all the schools have a School Board or Committee whose duty it is to arrange the curriculum and have general supervision of the school. In the congregational schools the Rabbi either acts as superintendent of the school or assists the superintendent with his counsel and co-operation.

All the congregational schools have libraries as adjuncts to the school. In these, Jewish books form but a small proportion and are probably little in demand by the children. In the other schools, with the exception of the schools of the Hebrew Sunday School Society and the Jewish Foster Home there are no libraries.

The Hebrew Education Society allows the use of its circulating library at Touro Hall to the children attending its schools.

TABLE I-PUPILS

INDEL				
SCHOOLS	Boys	Girls	TOTAL	AVERAGE ATTEND- ANCE
T. Communication of				
I-Congregational	70	82	152	130
Adath Jeshurun	80	118	198	172
Beth Israel		311	628	
Keneseth Israel	317		85	571
Mikve Israel	39	46		50
Rodeph Shalom	118	93	211	170
II-Hebrew Sunday School Society Schools	624	650	1274	1093
	296	444	740	313
Northern School	225	580	805	350
Southern School	282	405	687	260
Isaac Leeser School	162	300	462	198
Ellen Phillips School	55	50	105	55
Morais School	30	40	70	52
Love of Israel School			40	
House of Refuge Schools	34	6		30
III-Hebrew Education Society Schools	1084	1825	2909	1258*
School No. 1	21	43	64	45
School No. 2	30	38	68	50
School No. 3	15	48	63	45
School No. 4	20	30	50	50
	86	159	245	190
IV-Orphan Asylum Schools	1 00	co	140	140
Jewish Foster Home	80	60		140
Home for Hebrew Orphans	70	17	87	87
	150	77	227	227
V-Talmud Torahs			400	000
Hebrew Free School	400	0	400	380
Independent Talmud Torah	350	50	400	325
Northeastern Talmud Torah	125	0	125	110
Yeshibah Mishkan Israel	60	0	60	60
VI-Other Schools	935	50	985	875
N. W. Religious School	122	180	302	225
	53	77	130	110
Montefiore School	97	147	244	170
Ethical Sunday School	24	7	31	30
Germantown Hebrew School	296	411	707	535
VII-Private Schools			00	
Mr. L. Fine	20	0	20	20
Mr. Freedman	20	0	20	18
Mr. Griver	45	5	50	35
Mr. P. Grossman	50	0	50	45
Mr. Harkowitz	20	0	20	20
Mr. Koplowitz	17	0	17	15
Mr. Krieger	30	0	30	25
Mr. Preshansky	25	0	25	25
Mr. Rich	15	0	15	14
Mr. Rosen	60	0	60	50
Mr. Shultz	20	Ŏ	20	20
Mr. Yoffe	40	ŏ	40	40
	362	5	367	327
GRAND TOTAL	3537	3177	6714	4505

^{*} The small proportion of the average attendance to the total enrollment in this case is due to the fact that the attendance during the summer months, which is very small, is included in making up the average.

TABLE II—TEACHERS.

SCHOOLS	Male	FEMALE	TOTAL	PAID	
I-Congregational Adath Jeshurun Beth Israel Keneseth Israel Mikve Israel Rodeph Shalom	4 4 2 3 1	3 4 14 3 9	$ \begin{array}{c} 7 \\ 8 \\ 16 \\ 6 \\ \hline 10 \\ \hline 47 \end{array} $	6 6 16 0 10 38	
II—Hebrew Sunday School Society Schools Northern School	7 12 1 3 1 3	15 12 16 9 4 3 1	22 24 17 12 5 6 2	1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	
### TII—Hebrew Education Society Schools School No. 1	28 0 1 1 1 	$ \begin{array}{c c} 60 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ \hline 2 \end{array} $	88 1 1 1 2 5	3* 1 1 1 2 5	
IV-Orphan Asylum Schools Jewish Foster Home	2 2 4	1 0	3 2	$\frac{3}{2}$	
V—Talmud Torahs Hebrew Free School	8 9 3 3	1 0 0 0 0	5 8 9 3 3	8 9 3 3	
VI—Other Schools N. W. Religious School	23 6 3 5 1	0 9 8 2 0	23 15 11 7 1	23 0 0 0* 1	
VII-Private Schools Mr. L. Fine Mr. Freedman Mr. Griver Mr. P. Grossman Mr. Harkowitz Mr. Koplowitz Mr. Krieger Mr. Preshansky Mr. Rich Mr. Rosen Mr. Shultz Mr. Yoffe	15 1 1 2 3 1 1 1 1 1 4 2 2 2	19 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	34 1 1 2 3 1 1 1 1 1 4 2 2 2 20	1 1 2 3 1 1 1 1 1 4 2 2 2	
GRAND TOTAL	107	115	222	95	

^{*}The Superintendents, who are not included in the number are paid.

TABLE III

MEETINGS AND SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION

Abbreviations Used in this Table. B.—Bible; Ba.—Baar Bible Lessons (Bloch Publishing Co., New York); B. J.—Ben Jacob, Primary Bible History (Bloch Publishing Co., New York); D.—Deutsch, Biblical History (published by author); G.—Greenstone, The Religion of Israel (Hebrew Sunday School Society, Philadelphia); H.—Harris, The People of the Book, 3 volumes (published by the author, New York); Hm.—Hammechin (Hebrew Publishing Co., New York); J.—Joseph, Judaism as Creed and Life (Macmillan, New York); L.—Levi, Hebrew Course Book I (Jewish Chautauqua Society, Philadelphia); M.—Mendes, Child's First Bible (published by the author, New York); Ma.—Mannheimer, Hebrew Reader and Grammar (Bloch Publishing Co., New York); P.—Polano, Hebrew Speller (Bloch Publishing Co., New York); P.B.—Prayer Book; S. H.—Safah Hayyah (Hebrew Publishing Co., New York); A.—Shulhan Aruch; Ta.—Talmud; T. Y.—Toledot Yeshurun (Hebrew Publishing Co., New York) U.—Krauskopf and Berkowitz, Union Hebrew Reader (Bloch Publishing Co., New York); Y.—Yawitz, Toledot Am Israel.

	Mee	rings	Техт Воокѕ		Is the study	
SCHOOLS	Sunday	Other Days	Hebrew	Bible History	Jewish Religion	of Hebrew Compulsory
I-Congregational.						
Adath Jeshurun	10-12 A. M.	Sat. 9-10 A.M. Tues., Thur., 4.30-5.30 P.M	Ma.	н.		No
Beth Israel	9.45-12 а. м.	Sat, 9-10 A.M. Tues., Thur. 4.30-5.30 P.M	L.; S. H.; T. Y.; B.	В. Ј.; Н.	G.; J.	Yes
Keneseth Israel	2.30-4.30 р.м	Тһи.4-6 Р.М.	U.	B.; Lectures	B.; Lectures	Yes*
Mikve Israel	9,30-12 а. м.	Tues., P.M.	P.	D.	n . m.l d	Yes
Rodeph Shalom	10-12 а. м.	Tue. 4 P. M.	L.	н.	B.; Talmud Tales	Yes
II-Hebrew Sunday School Society Schools						
Southern School	10.15-12.15 A. M.			D.	G.	
Northern School	10.15-12 А.М.			D.; M.;	G.	
Isaac Leeser School	2.30-4.30 р.м			D.	G.	•
Morais School Ellen Phillips School .	10.30-12 а.м		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	D. M.; D.	•••••	
Love of Israel School.	2.30-4 Р. м.		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	D.; B.	В.	•••••
House of Refuge, Boys	2.30-4 P.M. Half hour in			В.		
5 , •	afternoon					
House of Refuge, Girls	half hour in morning			В.	••••••	
III—Hebrew Education Society Schools						
School No. 1		Mon., Tues., Thu. 4.30-6 P. M., Sat. 2-3 P. M.	P.; P.B.; Ma.	В.		Yes
School No. 2		Mon. Tues. Thu. 4.30-6 P. M., Sat. 2-3 P. M.	P.; P. B.	В.		Yes
School No. 3		Mon. Wed., Thu. 4.30-6 P. M., Sat. 2-3.30 P. M.	P.; P. B.			Yes
School No. 4		Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 4-6 P. M.				Yes
IV-Orphan Asylums						
Jewish Foster Home	Daily	Mon., Thurs.	U.; P. B.	Ba.; D.		Yes
Hebrew Orphans Home		Daily4-8 P.M.	1			
V-Talmud Torahs						
Hebrew Free School	9-12 A. M.	Daily except Friday 4-8 P. M.	Hm.	Y.	Sh. A.	Yes
Indep. Talmud Torah		D'ly 9-4 P.M.	B; Ta.; Sh. A	Y.		Yes
		0				

TABLE III—Continued.

			1			
Northeastern Talmud		Daily 2½ hrs	P.B.; B.			Yes
Torah			Т.Б., Б.			1 1 6 5
Yeshibah Mishkan		Daily 4-8.30	В.: Та.		Ethics	Yes
Israel		F. IVI.	,			
VI-Other Schools						
N. W. Religious School	2.30-4-30 P.M	Wed. 4.30-6				Yes
Montefiore School	2,45-4.30 р.м	P. M.	P.; P.B.	B.J.; H.	 	Yes
Ethical Sunday School	10.15-12-15		F., F.B.	Н.		ies
Germantown Hebrew	A. M.	Mon., Tues.,				
School	2.30-4 P. M.	Wed. 4.30-6	Hm.; Mebo L Humesh			Yes
School		P. M.	riumesn			
VII-Private Schools						
Mr. Fine		Daily 4-8.30	[. <i>.</i>			Yes
Mr. Freedman		P. M. Daily 4-8 P.M				Yes
Mr. Griver		Daily 4-6 P.M		T. Y.	G.	Yes
Mr. Grossman		Daily 4-7 P.M		1. 1.	G,	Yes
Mr. Harkowitz		Daily 4-8.30				Yes
Mr. Koplowitz		P. M. Daily 4-7 P.M	2.22			Yes
Mr. Krieger			B.; P. B. B.	Υ.		Yes
3.6 73 1 1		Daily 4-8.30	ь.	1.		Yes
Mr. Rich		P. M.				~-
	•••••	Daily 4-8 P.M	Mebo L			Yes
Mr. Rosen		Daily 4 hrs.	Humesh	в.		Yes
Mr. Schultz		Daily 4-7 P.M	Hm.; P.B.; B.	Beth Sefer	Derech Emunah	Yes
Mr. Yoffe		Daily 4-8 P M	Hm.		Emunan	Yes
		2 , , O I M				

^{*} Only for Confirmation Class.

Table IV
Internal Organization of Schools.

SCHOOLS	No. o		Has each Class a	19 there	No. o	f Volumes e Library
	Classes	Class	Seperate Room	Board	Judaica	General Literature
I-Congregational Adath Jeshurun. Beth Israel Keneseth Israel Mickve Israel Rodeph Shalom.	7 7 15 6 9	Av. 21 '' 28 '' 41 Varies	Yes	Yes " Com. Yes	100 Being 369 Gratz 402	750 catalogued 5299 700 3100
II—Hebrew Sunday School Society Schools Southern School Northern School Isaac Leeser School Morais School Ellen Phillips School Love of Israel House of Refuge, Boys House of Refuge, Girls	19 22 17 5 12 6 1	Varies Av. 16 Varies	No '' '' '' Chapel	Yes	Just	780 900 organized
III—Hebrew Education Society Schools School No. 1 School No. 2 School No. 3 School No. 4	5 3 4 2	Av. 11 '' 20 '' 16 '' 32	No " Yes	Yes		y atTouro Hall
IV-Orphan Asylum Schools Jewish Foster Home Home for Hebrew Orphans	4 2	35 40–47	Yes "	Com. Yes	300	1700
V—Talmud Torahs Hebrew Free School	8 9 3 3	50 45 40 Av. 20	Yes	66	200	
VI-Other Schools N. W. Religious School Montefiore School Ethical Sunday School Germantown Hebrew School	13 11 7 2	Av. 19 '' 12 '' 33 '' 15	No " " Yes			
VII-Private Schools Mr. L. Fine Mr. Freedman Mr. Griver Mr. P. Grossman Mr. Harkowitz Mr. Koplowitz Mr. Krieger Mr. Preshansky Mr. Rich Mr. Rosen Mr. Shultz Mr. Yoffe	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$	6, 6, 8 12, 8 Av. 22 10, 25, 15 6, 6, 8 Av. 8 Not replice 6, 9, 10 dual Instru Av. 12 "10"	No " Yes No " ed No uction No Yes	No		

TABLE V SCHOOLS, LOCATION AND SUPERINTENDENTS

Name of School	Address	Superintendent
1 Adath Jeshurun School 2 Beth Israel Religious School . 3 Religious School of Reform Congreg. Kenesth Israel . 4 Mikve Israel Religious School 5 Rodeph Shalom Religious School	Address 7th St. & Columbia Ave. 8th below Jefferson St Broad St. & Columbia Ave	
24 N. W. Jewish Religious School	Natrona St. & Columbia Ave	Mr. William Abrahams
26 Ethical Sunday School of the Hebrew Literature Society 27 Germantown Hebrew School . 28 Heder	310 Catharine St	Miss Judith S. Cohen Mr. Abraham M. Rose Mr. L. Fine Mr. Freedman Rev. D. Griever Mr. P. Grossman Mr. H. Harkowitz Mr. B. Koplowitz Mr. H. Krieger Mr. Preshansky Mr. Rich Mr. Solomon S. Rosen Mr. Joshua Shultz
39 Beth Sefer Ibri	1003 South 5th St	Mr. Max Yoffe



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